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But the equation of the common chord is

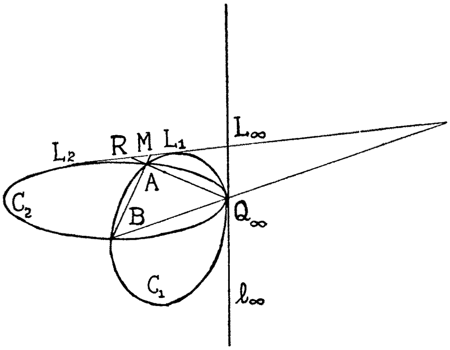
$$2(B_1 - B_2)x + 2(C_1 - C_2)y + (D_1 - D_2) = 0, \tag{6}$$

and thus (5) states that the coördinates of P_3 satisfy (6) and the common chord bisects the common tangent.[1]

II. Solution by W. E. Cleland, Princeton University.

Let the two conics C_1 and C_2 be tangent to the line at infinity of a Euclidean plane at Q_∞. Then C_1 and C_2 are parabolas whose axes are parallel. Let a common tangent be L_1L_2, tangent to C_1 at L_1 and to C_2 at L_2, and intersecting the line at infinity in L_∞. The common chord is AB, intersecting L_1L_2 in M. Let the intersections of AQ_∞ and BQ_∞ with L_1L_2 be R' and S, respectively.

Since the line L_1L_2 is tangent to C_1 at L_1, L_1 is a double point in the involution determined on L_1L_2 by the pairs of points $R\ S$, and $M\ L_\infty$. Similarly, L_2 is the other double point of the same involution. Hence M is the harmonic conjugate of L_∞ with respect to L_1 and L_2. M is therefore the midpoint of L_1L_2. (For proofs of these statements see Veblen and Young, *Projective Geometry.*)



Also solved by William Hoover, L. C. Mathewson, J. B. Reynolds, J. K. Whittemore, and F. L. Wilmer.

NOTES AND NEWS.

It is hoped that readers of the Monthly will coöperate in contributing to the general interest of this department by sending items to H. P. Manning, 69 Weymouth St., Providence, R. I.

Charles Albert Fischer, Seabury professor of mathematics at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., died December 7,[2] 1922. He was born at Wheaton, Ill., October 3, 1884, and received the degree of A.B. from Wheaton (Ill.) College in 1905. He spent 1909–1912 in graduate study in mathematics and astronomy at the University of Illinois (A.M., 1910) and University of Chicago (Ph.D., 1912). His thesis, published in the *American Journal of Mathematics*, 1913, was entitled: "A generalization of Volterra's derivative of a function of a curve." At the meeting of the American Mathematical Society at the University of Rochester last September he gave, by invitation, an hour lecture on "Functions of lines." He was a charter member of the Association.

Arnold Sommerfeld, professor of mathematical physics at the University of Munich, will be in residence at the University of Wisconsin for the first semester of the academic year 1922–1923, holding the Karl Schurz Memorial Professorship in the University for that period. Professor Sommerfeld is expected to give a three-hour course on atomic structure and a second three-hour course either on the analysis of wave propagation, or in general theory of relativity. Professor Sommerfeld is one of the outstanding scholars in the field of mathematical physics in Europe. His contributions to this field are well known to American scholars. The Karl Schurz Memorial Professorship in the University of Wisconsin was founded in 1910 as an exchange professorship with the German universities. The appointment of Professor Sommerfeld marks its resumption after the interruption caused by the war.

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[1] The solution will have a particularly simple form if we take the common tangent and the line through its mid-point parallel to the axes of the parabolas for coördinate axes, giving us a system of oblique coördinates. The common chord will then appear as a line through the origin —Editors.

[2] The date is given incorrectly as December 9 in *Science*, December 15.

At an informal dinner of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England, in Riverbank Court, Cambridge, on October 21, 1922, W. L. VOXBURGH, of the Boston Normal School, spoke on "Mathematics in California" and G. W. EVANS, of the Charlestown High School, on "Mathematics in China."

At the meetings of the American Mathematical Society at the University of Rochester, September 7–8, 29 papers by the following mathematicians were presented: C. C. CAMP, ELIZABETH CARLSON, E. H. CLARKE, F. N. COLE, A. H. COWLING, E. L. DODD, L. P. EISENHART, H. J. ETTLINGER, G. C. EVANS (2), C. A. FISCHER, P. FRANKLIN, W. C. GRAUSTEIN, O. D. KELLOGG, S. LEFSCHETZ, N. J. LENNES, G. A. MILLER, C. N. MOORE, R. L. MOORE and J. R. KLINE, F. H. MURRAY (2), A. MYLLER, K. SCHMIDT, I. J. SCHWATT (3), F. R. SHARPE and V. SNYDER, W. L. G. WILLIAMS, S. D. ZELDIN.

At the celebration of the seven hundredth anniversary of the founding of the University of Padua, May 14–17, 1922, twenty-three delegates from the United States were present. These included the following professors of astronomy and mathematics: R. G. AITKEN, of the Lick Observatory and the University of California, R. C. ARCHIBALD, of Brown University, JOSEPH LIPKA, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and VIRGIL SNYDER, of Cornell University. On each of these delegates the University of Padua conferred the honorary degree of doctor. The two delegates from the Dominion of Canada were Professor ARCHIBALD, representing Mount Allison University, and the late Dr. GEORGE PARKIN, the organizer of the Rhodes Scholarships, representing the University of New Brunswick.

The MONTHLY would be remiss in its duty if it did not from time to time call attention to special opportunities in the mathematical field. The United States Civil Service Commission states that there is urgent need for eligibles to fill positions of computer in the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. The basic salaries are $1,400 a year for positions in Washington, D. C., and $2,000 a year for positions in Manila, P. I. In addition to the basic salaries the increase of $20 a month granted by Congress will be allowed to those whose services are found satisfactory. Full information and application blanks may be secured from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington.[1]

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[1] A circular dated November 29, 1922, announces an open competitive examination for computer March 7 and 8, 1923.

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